



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 1999

SUBJECT: National Remedy Review Board Recommendations –
Federal Creosote Superfund Site

FROM: John S. Frisco, Manager *JSF*
Superfund Remedial Program

TO: Bruce K. Means, Chair
National Remedy Review Board

I am writing in regard to the recommendations provided by the National Remedy Review Board involving the remedy proposed by the region for the Federal Creosote site located in Manville, New Jersey. The board's comments were forwarded to the region on May 3, 1999.

The regional proposal considered an early action to remove highly contaminated source materials related to a former creosote wood treatment facility. The source materials, which the region believes constitute principle threat wastes, are found in lagoons and canals below the ground surface. A housing development was subsequently constructed over much of the site property. The remedy proposed by the region would be implemented in a phased manner. About a dozen homes would be purchased and demolished under the initial phase. Subsequently, the source materials would be excavated and thermally treated at an off-site facility.

The board supported the need for action at the site as well as the region's plan to buy and demolish about a dozen homes which would be necessary to address the waste source materials. However, prior the actual removal of these materials, the board believes that the region should complete the ongoing site-wide RI/FS and develop a cleanup strategy for the entire housing development. Among other items, this strategy would include identification of the full extent of contamination, specific cleanup objectives, and future land use options. The region agrees with the board's recommendation on this issue. We have included similar language in the proposed plan which has been released for public comment.

The region also agrees with the board recommendation to work closely with the community, given the need to demolish some homes and the present uncertainty about the full extent of contamination. As the site-wide RI/FS data becomes available, we will be in a better position to determine whether a larger-scale buyout of the housing development is necessary which may affect the current remedial proposal. If an extensive or total buyout does become necessary, other options will be assessed.

Also, we will include additional information concerning other approaches considered for addressing the contaminated source materials as well as an appropriate supporting analysis in the site decision documents. Lastly, the use of sheet piling to support excavation as opposed to other less expensive engineering methods will be evaluated during the design of the remedy

The region appreciates the board's advice and recommendations in helping to develop an appropriate remedial approach for this complex site.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.